

Appl. No. 10/817,216
Reply Filed: July 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 28, 2006

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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of March 28, 2006, the Applicants submit this Reply. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-6 remain in this application of which claims 1 and 4 are independent. No fee is due for claims for this Reply.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

(a) Claims 1 and 4, the pending independent claims, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of U.S. Patent 6,571,255 ("Gonsalves".) This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Gonsalves describes a system permitting an audio or video modification to be specified for several segments sharing a common attribute, such as origination from a common media source. (col. 3, ll. 48-49; col. 10, ll. 44-46). A modifier accesses and modifies every stored media segment that shares the common attribute, wherein one type of modification that can be implemented is color modification. (col. 17, ll. 5-28). Gonsalves also discloses a user interface that allows a user to color match using colors from images from a three-image display. (col. 22, ll. 44-47).

The Applicants indicate that several of the text passages cited in the Action do not disclose the claimed subject matter as is asserted. For example, the Action asserts that Gonsalves (at col. 11, ll. 10-15) teaches *storing an input luminance value corresponding to a luminance of the pixel before color correction*, where the cited passage actually describes determining an increase in luminance that may be applied to other video segments. The Action also states that, at col. 22, ll. 13-15, Gonsalves discloses *performing a color correction operation on the pixel to provide color corrected components for the pixel*. The cited passage discloses a "levels button 250" by which "a user can determine the effects of RGB color modifications on the luma of the pixel as a function of the luma of the pixel." The color correction Gonsalves refers to in this passage changes the luminance of the pixel, as opposed to the claimed method that results in a corrected pixel having *the input luminance and the corrected saturation values*; i.e., the claimed method uses the original value of pixel luminance. Further, the "destination color R_D , G_D , B_D " upon which Gonsalves does perform an ratio based adjustment is picked "from a known good color, the value of which is displayed in the output color swatch 260" that "may be provided by a color palette, or from another image, such as the image displayed in the previous image display

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228 of the next image display 230.” (col. 22, line 63 to col. 23, line 1). This is quite different from the claimed method and computer product, wherein a *color correction operation is performed on a source pixel to provide color corrected components from which an output saturation is determined upon which scaling is performed to provide corrected saturation*. Gonsalves’ “destination color” is, again, not the result of a *color correction operation*, it is merely selected by a user as a desired target color.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 and 4 in view of Gonsalves is respectfully traversed.

(b) Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent 6,654,028 (“Yamakawa”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yamakawa is directed to a display device “able to make an image of a dark scene to become easy to see without increasing a contrast.” An input luminance signal is “supplied to a dynamic gamma circuit” which produces a gamma-corrected luminance and two color-difference signals that are sent to the display device. (Abstract)

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited passages of Yamakawa, nor any of his circuit embodiments of the dynamic gamma correction means 5 or converting circuit 6, achieve the claimed limitations of

performing a color correction operation on the pixel to provide color corrected components for the pixel;

determining an output luminance and output saturation corresponding to the color corrected components for the pixel;

determining a scaling factor according to a ratio of the input luminance to the output luminance;

scaling the output saturation by the scaling factor to provide a corrected saturation; and

using the input luminance and the corrected saturation to provide values for the corrected pixel.

Firstly, “the gamma correction curve is controlled in response to the average luminance level of the video signal to be displayed.” (col. 14, ll. 23-35). Nor does Yamakawa’s color gain control circuit, which is applied in some embodiments to the two color difference signals (R – Y) and (B

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– Y), operate to *scale the output saturation by a ration of the input luminance to the output luminance*. According to Yamakawa:

“...the color gain are controlled in response to the average luminance level of the video signal to be displayed, whereby the intermediate luminance level increases in the scene in which a luminance level of an object is low to thereby make an image of a dark scene become easy to see.”

Secondly, and similarly to Gonsalves, Yamakawa fails to teach determining this luminance based scaling ratio from the *output of a color correction operation*. Therefore, claims 1 and 4 should be allowable over Yamakawa for this reason as well.

The remaining claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are dependent claims that are distinguishing over Yamakawa for at least the same reasons as the independent claims.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-6 in view of Yamakawa is respectfully traversed.

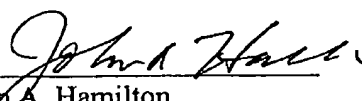
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this reply, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any fee to **Deposit Account No. 50-0876**.

Respectfully submitted,

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